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IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)	Petition No. R-15-0010
)	
PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF)	COMMENT OF THE PIMA COUNTY
AMENDMENTS TO THE)	ATTORNEY
ARIZONA RULES OF)	
PROTECTIVE ORDER)	
PROCEDURE AND THE)	
ARIZONA RULES OF FAMILY)	
LAW PROCEDURE)	
)	
)	

¶1 BARBARA LAWALL, the Pima County Attorney, supports the proposed changes to the Rules of Protective Order Procedure. She submits this comment to suggest two additions to the proposed rules to remedy two specific circumstances.

¶2 First, oftentimes a petitioner for an order of protection is a crime victim and is being assisted by a victim advocate from a prosecutor's office. Some judges do not allow the victim advocate to accompany the victim when she or he seeks an ex parte

¶3 Second, another difficult situation arises when a petitioner seeks an order of protection while accompanied by her or his children. The general rule is that children are not allowed to be present while the petitioner speaks to the judicial officer. This is understandable in many cases. But when the petitioner has no person to watch the children, the petitioner is in the impossible situation of not being able to seek relief without leaving her or his children unattended. Because of this, I propose that a Rule be added that would require a judicial officer to allow children to accompany the petitioner if the petitioner would otherwise be denied access to the court.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 19th day of May 2015.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, on the 19th day of May 2015, the original of the foregoing document was electronically filed in Word format and pdf format with:

Clerk of the Court
Arizona Supreme Court
1501 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

/s/
BARBARA LAWALL
Pima County Attorney